

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

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SIXPENCE

THE CORONATION is being overdone is the conclusion of a notable article by the distinguished novelist, Mr. E. M. Forster, in last week's *Spectator*, and there will be many of his generation who may be inclined to agree with him. We are glad to note, however, that our contemporary gives only a much qualified support to his point of view. All of us will agree that any form of vulgar ostentation is to be deprecated, but we see no sign of this. Never before in our history has it been so obvious a duty of statesmanship to emphasise the need to make known to our own people and to the world the importance of the Throne as the unifying force of Empire and the mainstay of peace. It would be idle to deny that the events of last year gave a rude shock to an age-long tradition—a shock from which in any other country it might have been difficult to recover. Happily it is not so here, but it is obviously important that everyone should have an opportunity to understand how greatly the interests of all depend upon the Crown. This can best be made plain most simply and effectively by a Coronation carried out with all the traditional rites and display which we have used throughout the centuries. Amid all the changes and chances that beset the nations in these critical times it is well that we should remember, and that those who do not remember should learn, that

Proud from the ages are we come, O King.

MINISTERS' SALARIES, at long last, are to be placed on a more rational basis. The present anomalies are to be abolished. They are relics from a past when the relative duties and responsibilities of the various offices were very different from what they are to-day. The salary of the Prime Minister, for example, is to be doubled: at present it is what it was a century ago when there was neither income-tax nor super-tax, and the necessary cost of living was far less than now. When, for example, the salary of the Minister of Education was fixed at less than half that of other ministers, the post was one of comparative unimportance. To-day the office is one of immense responsibility, and the holder, with the consent of the Treasury and his colleagues, can influence the lives of more subjects of the Crown than any other member of the Cabinet. Some provision for the Leader of the Opposition is obviously desirable: his is an onerous and difficult task which no man should be called upon to discharge without some remuneration. Nor is it easy to find arguments against the provision of pensions for retiring Prime Ministers.

IN SPAIN there is no doubt that General Franco and his Italian supporters have had a serious setback, though it is nonsense to talk about a second Caporetto. Italians who joined up in order to fight in Abyssinia are naturally half-hearted

fighters when they unexpectedly find themselves in Spain. It is impossible to tell whether Mussolini shortened his spectacular visit to Libya in order to clear up the mess because of a sandstorm, the official explanation, or because round Madrid the weather is certainly taking a hand in the conflict. In contrast to the brutalities hitherto brought home to either side the military authorities in Madrid have shown a wise statesmanship in treating Italian prisoners, who are said to number a thousand, with clemency. The insurgents' suggestion that this country should intervene between France and Spain in Morocco under the Act of Algeciras has been very properly rejected by the Foreign Secretary. The Act does not provide for any such intervention or foresee such conditions as exist at present.

THE POPE, whose recovery, at one time unexpected, is being welcomed by all who owe him obedience, has spoken very plainly on the German Church crisis. During the war the Papacy was in an exceptionally difficult position, and it was an easy target for those who argue that the fence is the safest place. The Pope in the new Encyclical has made it plain that the influence of Rome is at the disposal of all German Catholics who are unwilling to submit to the modernised Christianity, or as some would call it the new paganism, now being preached in the Fatherland.

So far as he inculcates freedom of religious thought and practice, all Englishmen, whatever their views may be, must be bound to follow his arguments. Herr Hitler, for whom we hold no brief, has done great things for Germany, but he has followed two mistaken paths from which sooner or later every statesman has to retreat. He has quarrelled with the Jews and with the Roman Catholics—the two great international organisations which in the present state of society are indefeasible. Herr Hitler will have to climb down.

"THE TIMES" Special India Number, published simultaneously in England and India on Tuesday last, once more demonstrates the ability of our leading English paper to signalise in worthy manner an historic occasion. This number was specially prepared to commemorate the coming into force on April 1 of the full provincial autonomy under the Government of India Act of 1935. That measure, whether one may regard it or not as too idealistic in some of its provisions, at least represents a significant landmark in the relations of the British people and Parliament with the Princes and peoples of India. It affords what ought to be convincing proof of British faith in India's capacity to govern herself and to display her fitness for the next stage in her political development, a status equal to that of the autonomous Dominions linked together by common allegiance to the Crown in the

British Commonwealth of Nations. India, to paraphrase the words of Lord Zetland's message printed in this Special Number, now stands at the crossroads, with one signpost pointing to "Evolution" and another to "Revolution." It is for her politicians to decide which road they will take. In some respects the political omens are more favourable than they were a week or two ago and one can only hope that the right choice will ultimately be taken. Meanwhile a careful study in India of *The Times'* Special Number may serve both to indicate the interest and confidence of the British people in India's future and also to bring about in that country a more adequate appreciation than there has been hitherto of the immense opportunities for Indian statesmanship provided by the Act of 1935.

HARRY VARDON was a great golfer. Whether he was the greatest golfer of all time it is not for us or for anyone else to say, though many newspapers have given him this bouquet. He certainly carried the responsibility of spreading the great game throughout the American continent, and who knows what effect he may have had on the health and efficiency of its business men? Golf was born on the dunes of Holland, whence it spread to Scotland and from there, under more artificial conditions, to England, before it reached America. It is a great game in spite of the disadvantage that it occupies much time and much land, at all events in England, which might be more usefully engaged. Harry Vardon was a pioneer of that physical training of which we hear so much to-day, and it is a comfort to the "rabbits" to remember that he occasionally missed a putt.

SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS, in spite of his singularly English names, continues to trail his coat like any stage Irishman. The other day he seems to have suggested to munition workers that if they lay down their half-made arms and thus joined the unemployed they could easily make "a capitalist war" impossible, and enable any aggressor to walk in and take charge. Unless other countries followed suit—which in the present state of Europe seems improbable—where should we be? A question on the subject was asked in the House of Commons on Monday by Commander Locker-Lampson on the ground that such a speech was an incitement to revolution and sabotage. Mr. Baldwin made a characteristic and masterly reply: "It is a little difficult to assess the value accurately of the spoken word, and my honourable and gallant friend perhaps puts too high a value on it." In other and less Parliamentary language, what Sir Stafford Cripps says is no longer taken seriously.

IN NEW LONDON, TEXAS, last week a disaster occurred which if it had occurred in any other country than the United States would have shaken the foundations of society. Apparently from some defect in the heating arrangements in a school where some 700 boys and girls were being educated, more than half of the pupils, according to the lowest estimate, were overwhelmed by

sudden and violent death. This was a really appalling catastrophe, comparable only with such disasters as the loss of the Titanic and the Lusitania or those cataclysms of nature like that of Krakatoa and other volcanic eruptions which throughout history have destroyed hundreds or thousands of innocent mankind. Are such events, men say, reconcilable, with the belief in the existence of a just and merciful God? This is a question which theologians have tried to answer since the beginnings of thought, and this is no place to debate it. We can only record the catastrophe and remember that all life is a mystery from its beginning to its end. It is also worth remembering that Providence, science, or human ingenuity, call it what you will, has placed in our hands the means of avoiding at least the majority of such disasters.

A NEW DEPARTURE for the films occurs at the Carlton this week, where an attempt has been made to reproduce an opera upon the screen. *I Pagliacci* has been chosen, and the picture opens with Richard Tauber singing the famous prologue. Without doubt he sings it well, but also without doubt prologues have nothing to do with the cinema. It may seem unnecessary, but it won't do any harm to repeat once more that pictures exist to beguile the eye and not the ear; therefore filming people singing is dangerous unless the voice is accompanied by movement which arouses interest in the story. Following the prologue, which is filmed in a new, but not particularly successful, colour process, the story gets started, but at no point is it very convincing, because Tauber is not a good actor. He is supported by Steffi Duna, whose Columbine is appealing, but whose Nedda lacks spirit. Arthur Margetson and Esmond Knight have the rather thankless parts of Tonio and Silvio. Many people will go to the picture in order to hear Tauber, but they will carry away few memories of it except those of his voice.

IF YOU LIKE musical comedy, you probably saw the original, *The Vagabond King*, and enjoyed it. Francois Villon is back again, this time at the Coliseum, and this new presentation is so well staged, so well dressed and the rousing choruses so well sung that even those to whom musical comedy is not among the first of the arts will be satisfied. Miss Maria Elsner is a delightful heroine; Harry Welchman makes Villon live again and George Graves shines as a likeable rascal. The whole show goes with a swing that ought to carry it well into the coming months.

IN THE CITY the tone has been heavy for a number of reasons apart from the selling which always takes place on the eve of a public holiday. Monsieur Blum's success continues to cause the withdrawal of French money from this country, and the taking of profits by those who have been gambling in armament shares and in base metals has had its effect. The general position, however, is perfectly sound, and those of our readers who have their money in Government securities, safe prior stocks and sound equities have no reason for anxiety.

Leading Articles

THE PARIS RIOTS

THE Paris riots and the resulting strike are phenomena that need not be taken too seriously. The French mentality differs fundamentally from our own and it is almost impossible for this country to understand the springs of action which let loose such upheavals on the other side of the Channel. In France and the United States human life has never attained the premium set upon it in Great Britain. It is an odd fact that in these islands people are genuinely concerned about the fate that befalls folk who are in no way connected with them, and the whole of public opinion is ready to rise in revolt if half a dozen persons are killed in civil disturbances. It would be unwise to be too virtuous about this attitude of mind. There is as much danger in attaching too high a value to human life as there is in reckoning it too cheaply. The nation which has persuaded itself that nothing can be worse than death has already incurred the penalty of death.

Other countries still possess a selfishness which is not without its value in the struggle for existence. Their citizens are not unduly worried by a heavy casualty list which does not affect their immediate circle. Many Frenchmen who knew England well were aghast when they learnt that our General Strike went off without a single violent death. They were very polite about the British self-control and moderation, but in their heart of hearts they thought that neither side can have cared very passionately for the ideals for which it was supposed to be fighting, if no one was prepared either to kill or die for them. The bloodless issue on which we all prided ourselves mightily smacked a little to our Continental critics of the Laodiceans. "I know thy works, that thou art neither hot nor cold: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art luke-warm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

Great Britain is prepared to defy the curse of Revelation. Our luke-warmness has proved profitable through many generations. Other nations, however, cannot understand this attitude, Spain, for instance, where thousands are killing and being killed for the sake of ideas. Bloodshed in French riots would become almost as rare as it is in England if the authorities imposed the Draconian regulations concerning the possession of weapons which are in force in this country. The story is always the same. A certain number of ill-disposed folk in the crowd begin firing revolvers and go on until the patience of the police breaks and they retaliate.

It is for this reason that political disturbances in France entail a certain amount of bloodshed. Such occasions have arisen regularly throughout this century and they are almost invariably followed by strikes of protest. There was a time when M. Pataud, the head of the Electricians' Union, was always ready to call such a protest strike on the shortest possible notice. He had but to say the

word and all the electric lights in the centre of Paris went out. People grumbled and made the most they could of candles, but the whole thing was taken as a joke until it became a bore. Then Clemenceau decided that King Pataud must be deposed. Something happened behind the scenes and he was publicly beaten by one of the members of his union on the Boulevard with an umbrella, and military electricians were held ready to take the place of strikers. That was the end of Pataud.

The protest strike last week was very much on the lines of Pataud's demonstrations. A factor in French life and politics which often misleads the foreign observer is the profoundly Conservative character of the nation. French Socialists have always been more Conservative than the Conservatives of this country and it may be doubted whether more than a handful of Communists will demand any fundamental change in the régime of the Third Republic. The French people are essentially "frondeur": they love criticism and are very grudging in praise and approval. Their quick intelligence takes a delight in the ventilation of extreme ideas. Their Parliament is far more like a debating society than a legislative body and the electors always become restive if it tries to translate ideas into action. As Clemenceau said long ago, the strength of the Third Republic has been its extraordinary powers of inertia, its gift of doing nothing.

The ghost of Napoleon I is still behind the throne. The highly centralised framework which he devised for the French State has survived more than a century of upheavals and convulsions. Parliamentarism has done less harm in France than in most Continental states because it has always been a sham. In political feeling no man was more moderate than Raymond Poincaré. Yet it was an epithet which he disliked intensely. There was no place in French politics, he would say, for betwixt and between. Both Chamber and Senate were the battleground of extreme ideas and any politician was doomed if he followed a middle course. It was his enemy Clemenceau who pointed out the logical result of this point of view. Extreme ideas cancelled one another out and in consequence nothing at all was done.

The Army is, as it always has been, the cement of French centralisation. The French people want peace perhaps more ardently than any other nation, but they are much too clear-headed to believe in pacifism. This country would not believe in pacifism, if it had had a few counties occupied by the Germans during the last war. The stability of the Third Republic depends on the Army which includes the whole nation and it is interesting to note how in the past labour troubles have always faded away when the troops have been called in to restore order. It is not a matter of force. It is the instinctive feeling that a man is fighting against his own kith and kin if he comes to loggerheads with the soldiers. The police and gendarmes are fair game. They are paid to have their heads broken from time to time, and made the targets of a few potshots. It is quite a different matter when the conscript army is concerned.

Years ago Briand brought the general railway strike to a sudden end by mobilising the strikers. At the time foreign opinion suggested that he was

delivering a fatal blow to the prestige of the Army. The reverse occurred. The fiercest striker became a supporter of law and order, as soon as a képi was served out to him as a symbol of mobilisation. Lord Roberts did his utmost to make this country understand the spiritual value of universal military training which extends to every class the advantages of the public school, but for some reason we seem incapable of understanding it. One would have thought that the Socialists would have welcomed it, for it breaks down all class barriers. Perhaps our notions of discipline are shocked by the idea of a general sitting down to a meal at the side of a private, but such incidents are inevitable when it is quite possible that the private may be the general's brother.

In considering the situation in France it is important to remember that the troubles which still break out from time to time are nothing new. About 1910 the doctrines of Syndicalism, on which both Fascism and National Socialism are based, gave rise to endless strikes and disorders. The "Grand Soir," when a universal strike would open a new era of universal happiness, was preached by many ardent souls who would have been the first to go back to work when they discovered what a universal strike really meant. France is still an agricultural country and the great mass of peasant common sense is still available to steady the ship of state in a dangerous storm, whether it comes from within or without.

EASTER IN SPAIN

HOLY Thursday is the most interesting day of Holy Week, in Seville, for then the more important processions pass through the crowded streets. I happened to be in the Andalusian capital on that day last year, so in the morning I went to the Cathedral. I entered the precincts through the Puerta del Perdon, a Moorish horse-shoe arched gate with bronze doors of exquisite workmanship, and walked into the Patio de Naranjos. That beautiful court was full of people on their way to mass and under the arcades a number of acolytes talked and jested before forming up to enter the Cathedral in procession. Exceedingly good-looking, they formed a striking picture. Each carried a wax candle as big as himself and wore a scarlet cassock beneath his white surplice; but even so my startled eyes were fixed upon their heads, for each of them wore a large golden crown.

Just for a moment I thought I was in Heaven looking at some rather dusky angels, but this idea was dispelled when these laughing children surrounded me demanding to be photographed. They were not in the least self-conscious in spite of their amazing head-dresses, and I came to the conclusion that not only is the Andalusian a born actor, but also has a natural dignity which enables him to carry off any costume under the sun. On Corpus Christi these same boys, dressed in clothes of the time of Philip the Second, dance a stately measure before the High Altar to the accompaniment of castanets. It is said that the Pope has ordered the abandonment of this annual custom once the costumes are worn out, with the result that the Sevillanos take very good care to see that they never are worn out.

And then the women of Seville passed through the court on their way to hear mass—the beautiful women of Seville. Erect, carrying themselves like princesses, they walked among the orange trees. It may be that the women of other nations are as beautiful, but I am certain that no one would look at them twice if a Sevillian lady were present in "grand tenue." Mystic Moorish eyes, which they know well how to use—an art so attractive and so rare—flashed at the onlooker; high tortoiseshell combs, some of them of astonishing size, supported the graceful lace mantilla which reached nearly to the ground. Many of these ladies wore black, the most becoming of all colours, and had placed a red carnation in their hair. They possessed poise, grace and dignity and were beautiful in a most romantic way. On Holy Thursday, Easter Sunday and Corpus Christi almost all of them wear the mantilla and on those days of all days it is good to be in Seville.

That evening I was fortunate enough, through the kind offices of the British Consul, to be invited to a balcony overlooking the San Francisco square. This was exceedingly pleasant—in spite of the fact that the balcony had been condemned as unsafe—as my host, the Manager of the Anglo South American Bank, produced excellent sherry and a tub of olives. Never before had I realised how good olives could be, for these were enormous brown ones which had been soaked in orange juice and sherry. Thus mellowed by hospitality and the company of my kind host I was feeling in excellent form when the processions began to arrive at six o'clock.

The square below was crowded with people and I was glad to see that though many of the more expensive seats were empty, the cheaper ones were all occupied; it did seem curious, however, that the civil authorities who in previous years always occupied a box in front of the Town Hall should have elected to remain away. The trumpeters of a Cavalry band, playing strange Eastern music, which must surely have been familiar to the Moorish Emirs, heralded the arrival of the processions.

It was most impressive. Slowly, sitting their horses with infinite grace, these Spanish cavaliers rode into the square, while the people, forgetting for a moment their Andalusian gravity, clapped their hands in applause. Behind the soldiers walked the hooded penitents, following the cross held aloft by their leader; the feet of some of them were bare, and one or two—no doubt as a penance—supported on their shoulders heavy wooden crosses. But the majority carried long candles and, no doubt pleased with the strange costumes in which they were arrayed, displayed every evidence of enjoying themselves.

Then, after the penitents came the "pasos," almost hidden in the smoke of sweet-smelling incense, and the statues on them were loaded with jewels which gleamed in the light of the candles. And every now and then someone in the crowd, carried away with enthusiasm for a particular statue would burst into song, the sort of music that from time immemorial has been sung in far Eastern bazaars. One very popular paso received many

such salutations, person after person breaking into these special songs, which are known as "Saetas" or arrows, and are attractive in a mournful way.

Paso after paso went by, and since darkness had begun to fall the statues appeared to be framed in a blaze of light. The people began to warm up. The shy Andalusians showed every evidence that they had forgotten their inhibitions and their fears as they laughed, talked and applauded some popular statue. But the biggest ovation was reserved for a mounted troop of the Guardia Civil, magnificent in the full splendour of red, white and blue uniforms, an outward manifestation of the intense love of the Sevillano for law and order and their gratitude to its guardians in this time of unrest.

F.H.M.

THE BADGER'S ESCAPE

THEY had got him at last. For hours they had been digging under the hot sun until the hillside was gashed with a great trench where they had been following the line of the hole. Hard work it had been, but now it had been worth it. For years they had tried to get him, but they had always failed. Many dogs had he crippled with his crushing jaws; even to-day the terriers tethered to a nearby stump bore upon them the marks of combat. One was bleeding from a ripped muzzle. Another's leg was cut to the bone. No mean adversary was Old Brock the badger. But at last his time had come; there was no escape for him now. The terriers had forced him up a blind pipe in his earth and he could back no farther. Very soon the long account would be evened up.

They were very close for they could hear the loud, excited baying of the terrier which was facing the badger. Every now and then came a loud grunt as the harassed beast charged his tormentor. With a yelp of fear the terrier would retreat before him, but as soon as the badger turned to dig himself in the baying would begin anew.

Tom Conigar bent to peer into the hole. Just inside he could see the tail of the terrier wagging excitedly as it barked. He reached in his hand and pulled it out. Then he flashed a torch into the hole. Startlingly near to him stood Old Brock, his striped, narrow head held low and swaying from side to side. For a moment man and badger gazed at each other, alert and watchful. Conigar groped behind him and picked up the tongs, long-handled steel pincers. Very cautiously he inserted them into the hole and after a little manoeuvring succeeded in getting them round the badger's neck. The beast made no resistance, but walked docilely out of the hole under the compulsion of the tongs. Now that it was all over he seemed quite calm and indifferent as to his fate. His little, piggy eyes blinked in the strong sunlight as he gazed at the men around him.

It had been settled long ago that if ever they got him he was not to be killed immediately. First of all the dogs must have their revenge. They would turn him down in the loose box of the Green Man and let all the dogs go. That would teach the varmint. Of course, they would tap him on the head first so that he would not hurt the dogs. Tom Conigar would have the mask mounted and

hung in his bar parlour where he would be able to show it to all comers. They would keep him for the night and have their fun in the morning, for to-morrow was Sunday. It would take some of the fight out of the old devil if he was left for some hours in a sack.

Old Brock made no movement as they lifted him gingerly into a bag. He lay very still in the bottom, but now and then he groaned as if he realised his desperate plight. A man slung the sack over his shoulder and they retraced their steps to the village to celebrate with strong ale. The bag bumped as the man walked, but still the old badger lay quiet. They slung the sack into the loose-box and went into the inn. For some time Brock remained still, but when all had been quiet for an hour or so he began to wriggle in his stuffy prison. Over and over he tumbled as he tried to thrust his way through the enveloping material. Conigar had made a bad mistake when he cast that sack upon the floor. Had he hung it up the badger would have remained still and quiet, but with the feel of the floor beneath him the old warrior was encouraged to try to break loose.

At length he ceased his struggles. Then came the sound of strong claws scratching. For long he scraped at the intertwining mesh of the bag and very gradually it began to give. One string broke and then another, until there was a tiny hole through which he could poke his nose. Untiringly those long black claws tore at the bag and the hole widened until at long last he was through.

He shook himself with a satisfied grunt and trotted towards the door. It was locked and there was no space through which he could squeeze his squat body. Round the box he wandered, but the walls were of brick. It seemed that he was to be foiled after all. He wasted some time by scratching at the hard mortar but made no impression on it. He gave it up and retired beneath the manger to await what might befall. Very still he lay with his eyes fixed on the door which was now his one hope.

Conigar was early astir the next morning. It was going to be good fun baiting the old badger. Before he had his breakfast he wandered round to the loose box to take a look at the prisoner. He opened the door and flung it wide. The box was gloomy and for a moment he could not see. He heard a flurry of feet and something cannoned into him and knocked him sprawling. He heard a grunt as a hairy grey body passed over him. He raised himself on an elbow and cursed long and loud. For there at the end of the meadow was Old Brock running for dear life towards the hills where he would find sanctuary.

Conigar is no fool and when the men assembled he told them that he had let the badger go. "He've gied us many a good dig," he told them. "I let un goo so as we cud 'ave another goo at un. Next time, o' coorse, us wont gie un no chance."

In the big earth on the hill Old Brock lay and took his rest. He had been very near to death but that did not trouble him. His most pressing need was food, but for that he would have to wait until the rising of the moon. He snorted and curled nose to tail to await the coming of the kindly dark.

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Books of The Day

EDWARD OF WINDSOR

OVER three months have elapsed since Edward VIII put his signature to the Instrument of Abdication renouncing the throne for himself and his descendants. Much has happened in that interval, but despite that and the fact that the British people and the people of the Empire have given a cordial welcome to a new Sovereign and his gracious Consort, and despite, too, the Duke of Windsor's absence in a far distant foreign land, the columns of our daily newspapers afford significant evidence that the chief protagonist in the Empire's saddest drama has not lost his appeal to popular interest and affection. It is part of the penalty of his personality and sensational change of fortunes that he should still continue to occupy a prominent place in the limelight and part, too, of that penalty that he and his life and abdication should go on forming the theme of books.

No less than three of these books have recently appeared. One, a slight affair of 102 pages, deals solely with the Abdication. It is called "His was The Kingdom" (Arthur Barker, 2s. 6d.) and is the joint production of two authors, Messrs. Frank Owen and R. J. Thompson. It professes to give "the story as it took shape under the eyes of newspapermen" and contends that "it was a newspaper story from the word go," the Press beginning with an open conspiracy of silence and ending up, or at least a portion of it, with "a secret plot" to force the King's hands. The authors set out their one-sided case with liveliness and gusto and append the moral to their tale, "Don't build your kings too high." But while the newspaper angle they present is not without interest, their general argument is very far from laying bare "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

Another book, "Edward VIII — Duke of Windsor," by Mr. Basil Maine (Hutchinson, with 34 illustrations, 3s. 6d.) is a revised and expanded edition of the same author's earlier work "Our Ambassador King." It contains a complete and just survey of the Duke's life of service both as Prince and King and an attempt to appraise the main features of his character. The author's final conclusion is that the qualities of originality and independence which helped to endear Edward as Prince of Wales to his father's subjects "were bound to prove dangerous to a King reigning in the year 1936."

The third book is as certain to be eagerly read as it is likely to provoke criticism and possibly violent dissent. It is by Mr. Hector Bolitho and is entitled "Edward VIII, His Life and Reign" (Eyre and Spottiswoode, illustrated, 10s. 6d.). It is an elaborate character study by an author who has already proved his flair for Royal portraiture by his books on the Prince Consort and "Victoria the Widow and Her Son." The theme is one of constant frustration, of an ever-changing background, of a training that deprived the Prince of

the right amount of family influence and exploited his charm and talents to the full without counting the cost to himself in the way of excessive burden and isolation. Then, too, "George V. was an exacting parent. His discipline made it difficult for him to comprehend the shaken generation which matured through the war. It was his sense of duty which urged him, perhaps too often, to criticise the Prince. The name of a prelate or a statesman would be brought in to support the King's opinion. Perhaps King George did not comprehend the care with which his own father had avoided the same error." The Prince "chose an independent way. It led him far from the traditions of his father's Court. He resented the old order and conventional society did not amuse him."

Mr. Bolitho notes a "souring" of the Prince's temperament before his Accession. But he thinks that "had he come to the throne during a war or in time of fierce constitutional crisis, he might have shaken himself free of the ghosts that haunted him. He might have risen to magnificence with the ordeal of war or the anxiety of domestic strife." As it was "he assumed his crown surrounded by old and comparatively tired men: with a Prime Minister who stood for the safety and apathy which he could neither respect nor endure, and with an Archbishop to whom he was hostile. There were no influential members of the Cabinet of his own age and experience and, once more, he suffered the penalty of belonging to the army that came back from the war. . . . Many members of the Government resented his campaigns among the poor. As Prince of Wales the King had been discouraged in his charity. It was clear to him that he would be similarly frustrated now that he was Sovereign. This lack of encouragement in the one cause which stirred his heart no doubt contributed to his disappointment and helped his quick and emotional nature to go its own way."

The Coronation has already produced a fair number of informative books dealing with the history of the ceremony, the significance of the rites performed and the order of the Abbey Service. But as Coronation day approaches more of these books are appearing and, though they cover much the same ground as their predecessors, they will doubtless receive the eager welcome that the enterprise of their authors and publishers deserve.

From Messrs. Ward Lock comes an attractively illustrated, moderately priced book entitled "Royal Cavalcade" (2s. 6d.). The author is Mr. E. Thornton Cook, who has written several Royal histories, and who in the present book gives us a brief account of the lives of Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth before passing on to the romance, legend and history of English Coronations. It is a brightly written chronicle by an author who knows his subject and uses his knowledge to excellent purpose.

Dr. Jocelyn Perkins (Sacrist of Westminster Abbey) took part in the Coronations of both King Edward VII and King George V, and, though he modestly lays claim to no erudition in his book on

"The Crowning of the Sovereign of Great Britain and the Dominions Overseas" (Methuen, illustrated, 5s.), his readers will soon realise that this little "handbook to the Coronation" of 200 odd pages contains a vast amount of interesting historical information that could only come from studious research. After a short survey of past Coronations and a chapter on the Abbey, Dr. Perkins deals with the story in turn of the Regalia and their treasures, of the Thrones and Chairs and of "the Ministers of the Sacring." He then proceeds to set out the order of the Service and its historical sources. Finally, we are given the actual "impressions and experiences" of eye-witnesses at the Coronations of Charles I, Charles II, George III, William IV, Victoria and Edward VII.

Young people as well as their elders should find much to entertain them in "Euphan" and "Klaxon's" "Stories of the Coronations" (Burns Oates, illustrated from ancient sources, 3s. 6d.). The stories are simply and amusingly told and the two authors seem to have a special gift for collecting historical curiosities such as the details of sumptuous Royal banquets and Henry VIII's joke on the Abbot that gave rise to the nickname of Beefeaters for the Yeomen of the Guard.

Of topical interest at the moment is also the charmingly and profusely illustrated booklet, "The Green Heart of London: The History of the Royal Parks and Residences" (Ward Lock, 1s.), by A. H. Henderson-Livesey. With so much space allotted to illustration the text is necessarily brief, but Mr. Henderson-Livesey, with an agreeable lightness of touch, skilfully performs the task of adequate commentary.

* * *

That industrious little creature the bee has, from time immemorial, received the gratitude and respect of mankind as the provider of the delicious and wholesome food it so zealously collects. Little wonder that it should have come to be associated in the mind of primitive or credulous men all the world over with all kinds of superstitious beliefs; that its wax should be utilised for religious ceremonials; that its honey should be regarded as meet food and drink for the Gods. Thus it was an easy stage to treating the bee as itself possessing something of the divine: a creature to whom news of a death in a household had to be told, perhaps to avert further evil or to expedite the soul's celestial progress. Bees, too, were credited with special gifts: an ear for and love of music that made them (in Varro's phrase) veritable "Birds of the Muses," while their honey had magical properties, the Finns even attributing to it the domestication of the dog. It is a fascinating subject all this folklore concerning the bee and the many uses to which its products have been put by various races of mankind, and Miss Hilda M. Ransome does full justice to it in her comprehensive and scholarly treatment of it from the earliest records down to the present day ("The Sacred Bee in Ancient Times and Folklore," Allen & Unwin, illustrated, 12s. 6d.). The illustrations reproduced from prehistoric wall paintings and medieval

earliest settlements on its site. In the second he deals with London's legends and offers his own interpretation of the old stories of Brut, Bran, Ludd, Gog and Magog, and the rest.

NEW NOVELS

A first novel of exceptional promise would be a just summing-up of "Fly That Sips Treacle," by James H. Mosey (Harrap). The scene is a remote and isolated Norwegian farm where an English airman, whose aeroplane has crashed, is nursed back to health in a household consisting of the farmer himself, his two daughters (one a child), his supposed son, and an English girl graduate studying the local dialect. The Englishman's attraction for both the elder Norwegian daughter, whom he marries, and the English girl, and the "son's" resentment over the stranger's presence and jealousy of him make a dramatic and tragic tale. The author displays an unusual gift for vivid description and his characterisation is excellent.

Those who remember Miss Dorothy McCleary's "Not For Heaven" will not need to be reminded of the uncanny skill with which she projects her characters on to the minds of her readers. It is a very subtle business that enables her to get her effects with the minimum of description. Her new book, "Naked To Laughter" (Arthur Barker) reveals the same finish in craftsmanship. The story revolves round the loves and intrigues of an American small-town milliner and it is a tragic-comedy instinct with life.

Marriage as seen from six different angles is the theme which Miss Florence A. Kilpatrick has chosen for the successor to that delightful story "The Eldest Miss Grimmett." The title of the second book is "Six Marriages" (Harrap). It was something of a feat to get the varying experiences and temperaments of six couples into one tale, but Miss Kilpatrick manages the affair with remarkable ease and with no loss of grip on her readers' interest.

Mr. Arnold Edmondson, ably backed up by his artist collaborator Mr. Thomas Henry, has created for us a very lively and humorous centenarian "card" ("Old Amos," Arthur Barker). He is not by any means what one might call a nice old man, this wily trickster who gloats over his triumphs and who finds it does his heart good to go to the churchyard and "ave a look round and just think there's none of all of them that's been laid by till Judgment Day that ever got the best of me." But his reminiscences provide glorious entertainment.

For a first essay in detective fiction, "Murder in Blue," by Clifford Witting (Hodder and Stoughton) is surprisingly good. The mystery is well sustained, the plot credible and the quiet manner of telling the story most effective. Nor does the author omit to supply the additional attraction of a romantic interest.

"Carriers of Death," by John Creasey (Melrose) is another of his Secret Service stories in which the Arran twins and other agents of Department Z play exciting parts and thrills

abound. Mr. Creasey can always be depended upon for ingenious plots, ruthless villains, likeable heroes and a story that moves at great pace.

Among the runners-up in Messrs. Harrap's £1,500 Cracksman Competition was "Round Robin," by Graham Ward Bain. The cracksman here is a rich young man who robs crooks to pay back money or goods to the crooks' victims. The author succeeds in investing him with a considerable amount of charm and his adventures are told with great spirit.

OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED

"Gay Prelude" (novel) by Christian Folkard (Robert Hale); "Tale of An Old Soldier," by Ex-Sergt. William Crutchlow, D.C.M. (Robert Hale, 7s. 6d.); "Three Pictures of the Spanish Civil War," a debate about Spain by a Democrat, a Francophil and a Liberal, edited by Don Justo Medio (Hutchinson, 2s. 6d.); "Palestine At the Crossroads," by Ernest Main (Allen and Unwin, 7s. 6d.); "We Aren't So Dumb," by Christopher Hollis (Longmans, 6s.); "Organised Compensatory Trading," by Edgard Milhaud, Professor of Economics, Geneva University (Williams and Norgate, 5s.); "The Menace of British Depopulation," by G. F. McCleary, M.D. (Allen and Unwin, 4s. 6d.).

PUBLISHERS' PLANS

G. K. Chesterton's last book, "The Paradoxes of Mr. Pond," will be published by Messrs. Cassell on April 1.

In the near future there will be appearing from Messrs. Batsford "Royal Progress: One Hundred Years of British Monarchy, 1837-1937," by Mr. Hector Bolitho. The book will have six plates in colour and 130 half-tone illustrations.

Messrs. Constable announce the early publication of the first instalment of the "Marley Letters," covering the period 1778-1822.

At the beginning of April Messrs. Harrap are bringing out "The Romantic Age" (survey of Europe in the early nineteenth century), by Professor R. B. Mowat.

At the same time Messrs. Lovat Dickson will be issuing the second and concluding volume of Mr. Aldersey White's posthumous translation of "The Adventurous Life of Count Lavallette" (Napoleon's aide-de-camp).

QUOTATION

"The wonder is, not that faults have been found, but that his reputation has been so little scathed. The principles which were the pillars of his policy, still challenge refutation. They failed, indeed, to keep the peace in the end; but they kept it for nine years, and they secured that Britain entered the War with powerful allies, and with a fair name among neutrals on both sides of the Atlantic. Where he failed no one could have succeeded; where he succeeded many would have failed."—From "Grey of Fallodon," by Professor G. M. Trevelyan (Longmans, 16s.).

Round the Empire

"WHITE AUSTRALIA" POLICY HOLDS

PEOPLE who understand the Australian attitude to the racial question are not likely to feel any alarm at the suggestion that Japan may raise the immigration issue when its representatives meet Australia's shortly to discuss a long-term trade agreement. It is hardly conceivable that Japan will propose the admission of Japanese settlers to the Commonwealth, except as a matter of Oriental diplomacy. No nation is better aware than Japan that the Commonwealth has no intention of receding from the "white Australia" policy, which is probably the single point of national policy which every political party in the Federal arena accepts without reservation of any kind.

It should not be thought that Australia is contemptuous of the part foreign settlers have played in the development of her broad territories. For example, Italian farmers have done invaluable work in the North Queensland sugar fields, and helped to people an area in which the population would otherwise be dangerously sparse. However, for Australian purposes the European settler possesses an inestimable advantage over the Asiatic because he and his children are so readily absorbed into the community life. On the other hand, the Asiatic clings tenaciously to the racial characteristics and sympathies of his forefathers, and his presence is a potential menace in the event of war. Australia has never encouraged the settlement of Japanese. It is significant that when the last census was taken in 1933 the number of resident Japanese was 2,084, nearly 600 less than at the previous census in 1921. Australia has no desire to discourage commercial relations with its Asiatic customers by forbidding the entry of their nationals for the purpose of representing legitimate business-houses. Its representatives will no doubt be prepared to discuss this subject with the utmost sympathy when they meet the Japanese mission. But it is safe to predict that Australia will concede nothing beyond that point.

NEW ZEALAND'S DEFENCE

The New Zealand Defence Minister's announcement of the extension of the Dominion's defence programme is reassuring to the Empire as well as to the taxpayer who will foot the bill. It is to be feared that Labour Governments, especially those new to office, are liable to place a somewhat ingenuous trust in the theory that war can be averted merely by stimulating international good-fellowship. The New Zealand Government earlier betrayed a tendency to support this view. Its expressed policy of contributing to the cause of peace by helping to "revive and make more real the power of the League of Nations" is certainly irreproachable. But recent events have indicated that such a revival will be frustrated unless the

nations which support the League are in a position to command attention for their arguments.

It may be that Mr. Savage and his Cabinet were inspired by the example of the British Government. It is also probable that the reports of Mr. Walter Nash, the Minister of Finance, who has had an admirable opportunity to estimate European feeling during his visit overseas, contributed to the decision. In any event, New Zealand is showing a commendably practical attitude. Its programme calls for the purchase of two further squadrons of modern service machines, construction of new aerodromes and an increase in the number of pilots, air gunners and other personnel of the Air Force. It will be noted that New Zealand is concentrating on the development of its air defences. The policy is wise in a Dominion possessing a comparatively small population. The British Government will no doubt feel gratified that New Zealand is displaying such a sane realisation of the needs of the day. The vulnerability of the Empire's Pacific possessions has been, and will no doubt continue for a considerable time, a matter of concern to the British Government in planning Imperial defence. But the increasing eagerness of both New Zealand and Australia to sharpen their own swords is at least an indication that the responsibility resting on the shoulders of the people of the United Kingdom will be lightened.

SOUTH AFRICA LOOKS AHEAD

With flourishing finances and a surplus of £5,000,000, South Africa and its Government are planning for a future even brighter than the present. One of the Union's latest development schemes involves practically the doubling of ship accommodation in the Table Bay Harbour, providing for the entry of the largest ships and the building of a spacious graving dock. At the same time Cape Town is to have some 363 additional acres added to its area by reclamation from the sea. The expenditure entailed is to run to £2,250,000 in the course of the next four years. The improvement of the harbour will have important consequences both for the trade of South Africa with the outside world and for strategic purposes. The Union Government is also anxious to do what it can to promote the influx of visitors to South Africa, and with this end in view the Government has agreed to the foundation of a tourist publicity body to be registered under the Company Law as a non-profit-making concern. The Railways are to pay half the cost, the Union Treasury a quarter, and the rest of the money will, it is hoped, be found by South African municipalities, shipping companies, hotels and others who benefit from the tourist traffic.

QUESTION OF TITLES

Some of the Dominions, in their democratic enthusiasm, have made known their distaste for the grant of honours to their nationals. Both Houses of the South African Union passed a resolution in February, 1925, respectfully requesting the Sovereign not to bestow titles on His Majesty's subjects in the Union of South Africa and in the Mandated Territory of South-West Africa. The

grant of a title to Sir Patrick Duncan, the new Governor-General, has provoked several protests from Nationalist members in the Union House of Assembly, and the matter was brought up again in that House at the end of last month. General Hertzog, the Prime Minister, in replying to the objectors, stressed the fact that his Government had no intention of departing from the spirit or letter of the 1925 resolution. But the case of Sir Patrick Duncan did not come within the scope of that resolution. "The relationship of the Governor-General with the King," he pointed out, "was of a most personal character. He took the place of the King in this country, and that being accepted as an undisputed fact, he should be honoured accordingly, and when they had a representative of the King in this country it behoved them to show the greatest respect to him. The argument had been used that his (General Hertzog's) action had been in direct conflict with the democratic principles of the people. But he would leave it to the people to decide, and he knew what their decision would ultimately be."

CANADA'S WEALTH IN WOOD

Canada is taking stock of her forest resources, using in the process the latest form of aerial photography. The task of piecing the information together is still going forward. Estimates show, however, that of Canada's total land area of 3,500,000 square miles something like 1,254,083 square miles are covered by forests. Ultimately about 188,000 square miles of area now forested may be used for agriculture, but the remainder can be classified as true forest land; that is, land better adapted for growing trees than for any other use. Of the total forest area, 800,783 square miles are classified as productive and accessible, and, of this area, one-half is occupied by stands of merchantable timber and one-half by young growth. The remaining forests, covering 453,300 square miles, are either inaccessible under present conditions, or are of too poor quality to be considered as commercially valuable.

More than 91 per cent. of all the forests are owned by the Crown, the several provinces administering the timber within their boundaries and the Dominion Government controlling that in the northern territories. Timber dues, royalties, ground rent, and fire protection charges are important items on the revenue sides of most provincial budgets. The volume of accessible timber now fit for use, either as saw material or as pulpwood, fuel, etc., is estimated at 170,141,000,000 cubic feet. The total value of Canada's forest products last year ran to well over £60,000,000.

ELECTRICITY IN CANADA'S HOMES

Canada's abundant water power is steadily revolutionising conditions both in homes and factories.

During 1936 the saddling of the rivers produced an output of electricity nearly nine per cent greater than in 1935, more than 25,000,000,000 kilowatt hours being generated. Of the total consumption of electricity something like 35 per cent. was used for lighting purposes, the pulp and paper industry, perhaps the greatest consumer of all, using 40 per

cent., while the mining industry, whose authorities realised the immense advantages of electrical power, consumed approximately 11 per cent. Inevitably the all-electric home is becoming a commonplace, even the farms in outlying districts taking advantage of the "white coal" for all the many daily duties on the holding, from the use of electricity for milking machines to the warming of day-old chicks by ultra violet ray lamps. Yet with all this there is the impressive fact that only 18.2 per cent. of the potential hydro-electric powers have been developed. As a footnote for the British housewife, it is interesting to observe that 13 per cent. of Canada's homes are equipped with refrigerators, 18 per cent. with electric ranges, and 33 per cent. with electric washing machines.

ROAD-MAKING FROM THE AIR

Canada has literally put 481,000 square miles of her land on the map by means of air photography, which, since 1922, when it was inaugurated has covered some of the most difficult and unsettled regions of the Dominion. Already Canada's collection of air photographs numbers approximately 700,000, and gives detailed information to prospectors, geologists and surveyors. The maps have been particularly useful in the laying out of new roads. In Northern Manitoba, for example, a great saving has resulted from the use of the maps in the opening of roads to the mines.

SOWING FISH

Last year Canada added a hundred million to her internal fish population. The additions were in the form of trout and salmon eggs, fry and fingerlings. They were added to the rivers, streams and lakes by the Dominion's Department of Fisheries. The majority were made up of the eggs of sockeye salmon, to the number of nearly 65 million. Next came Atlantic salmon and after that a gay galaxy of trout of various kinds including speckled Kamloops, rainbow and leven.

MORE EMPIRE STEEL

It is understood that an announcement will shortly be made concerning the establishment of steel works on a considerable scale in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia. Negotiations have been going on for the last eighteen months, and as these appear to have been developing satisfactorily, a statement is expected regarding the extent of the proposed industry and the branches of the steel trade with which it is intended to deal.

It is not generally realised that the largest deposits of high grade iron ore in the world are in Southern Rhodesia, but, so far, these have not been exploited. With vast coal deposits and enormous potential water power, there is no doubt that iron and its derivatives will one day become a very important factor in the Colony's progress.

BRITISH TRADE WITH RHODESIA

The Government of the United Kingdom has decided to establish a Trade Commissioner at Salisbury, the capital of Southern Rhodesia. Mr.

A. W. H. Hale, of the Department of Overseas Trade, has been appointed to the post.

As far back as 1931 a trade mission, under Lord Kirkley, sent out from Whitehall, recommended that such an official should be resident in the Colony to handle the work of the two Rhodesias and Nyasaland. All that was done at the time, however, was to take Northern Rhodesia from under the Trade Commissioner of Nairobi and bring it, like Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, under the supervision of Johannesburg.

Mr. Hale expects to commence work in his new office, in Salisbury, during the first week in April. His appointment is a recognition of the growing importance of the Rhodesias as consumers of British goods, and a reminder to merchants and industrialists in the United Kingdom that these Colonies should be regarded as separate markets from that of the Union of South Africa.

A ZIMBABWE DISCOVERY

The authorities at Zimbabwe, the ancient ruins in Southern Rhodesia, attach considerable importance to the recent discovery there of a soapstone bead, about two inches long and half an inch wide, covered with fine beaten gold, secured to the stone by minute gold rivets. This is the first of its kind to be found and may be of assistance to the archaeologists in their search for clues that may lead to the unravelling of the mystery of the origin of the ancient temple and other great granite structures near Fort Victoria, which are known collectively as the Great Zimbabwe.

Stone beads, gold tacks and fragments of gold sheets have been found there before, but never a gold-plated bead.

NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPS—I.

"England's Oldest Colony," Newfoundland, issued her first stamps as long ago as 1857, when an imperforate series, all inscribed "St. John's Newfoundland," made its appearance. These served the colony for nine years, and then in 1866 the first of the many pictorial issues for which Newfoundland is noted were placed on sale. There were six designs: the 2 cents stamp showed a codfish emblematic of the great fishing industry off the island's shores, the 5 cents portrayed an ice floe upon which may be seen a seal, another local industry, the 10 cents bore a portrait of Albert, the Prince Consort, the 12 cents a profile portrait of Queen Victoria, the 13 cents a sailing ship and the 24 cents a full face portrait of the Queen. In 1868 a 1 cent stamp was issued upon which was a portrait of King Edward the Seventh as Prince of Wales, and in the same year another portrait of Queen Victoria, this time in "widow's weeds," was issued. Designs similar to these but in many cases redrawn were used in the issues up to 1896, with the following additions: a $\frac{1}{2}$ cent. stamp showing the famous Newfoundland Dog came out in 1887, and in 1890 a new 3 cents with a small profile portrait of the Queen was issued.

The first commemorative set was issued in 1898 to mark the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Newfoundland by Jean Cabot, and also to honour

the 60th year of Queen Victoria's reign. The designs were as follow:—1 cent, Queen Victoria; 2 cents, Jean Cabot; 3 cents, View of Cape Bonavista, the landfall of Cabot; 4 cents, scene, Caribou Hunting; 5 cents, Mining scene; 6 cents, Logging scene; 8 cents, Fishing boats; 10 cents, Cabot's ship, the "Matthew," leaving the Avon; 12 cents, Ptarmigan; 15 cents, Group of Seals; 24 cents, scene, Salmon Fishing; 30 cents, Seal of the Colony; 35 cents, Coast Scenery, an iceberg near St. John's; and 60 cents, a portrait of King Henry VII, who granted Cabot a charter to discover new lands. During the years 1897 to 1901 a new definitive series appeared with the following Royal Portraits:— $\frac{1}{2}$ cent, King Edward VIII as Prince Edward; 1 cent, Queen Victoria; 2 cents, King Edward VII as Prince of Wales; 3 cents, Queen Alexandra as Princess of Wales; 4 cents, Queen Mary as Duchess of York; and 5 cents, King George V as Duke of York.

Another commemorative issue followed in 1910 when the fourth centenary of the colonisation of the island by John Guy was celebrated. The stamps were:—1 cent, Portrait of King James I who granted the charter of colonisation; 2 cents, Arms of the London and Bristol Company for Colonising Newfoundland; 3 cents, John Guy who established the first permanent colony; 4 cents, Guy's ship, the "Endeavour"; 5 cents, View of Cupids; 6 cents, Sir Francis Bacon, "the guiding spirit of the colonisation scheme"; 8 cents, View of Mosquito; 9 cents, Logging Camp at Red Indian Lake; 10 cents, Paper Mills at Grand Falls; 12 cents, Portrait of King Edward the Seventh; and 15 cents, Portrait of King George the Fifth. This last was issued on the 15th of August, 1910, and was the first stamp to bear King George's portrait issued during his reign. In 1911 the Coronation was philatelically celebrated by an issue of stamps showing members of the Royal Family. Those depicted were:—Queen Mary, King George V, King Edward VIII as Prince of Wales, King George VI as Prince Albert, The Princess Royal as Princess Mary, Prince Henry, now Duke of Gloucester, the Duke of Kent as Prince George, Prince John, Queen Alexandra, and the Duke of Connaught.

At the close of the World War a stamp issue was made to commemorate the part taken in that struggle by the Newfoundland Contingent. These stamps depicted the head of a caribou and bore beneath it one or the other of two inscriptions, "Trail of the Caribou" or "Royal Naval Reserve." The latter had the additional inscription "Ubique" and the former a battle honour won by the Newfoundland forces. These were "Suvla Bay," "Gueudecourt," "Beaumont Hamel," "Monchy," "Steenbeck," "Lange-marck," "Cambrai," and "Combles"; one honour being on each stamp. These were the days of the first Atlantic aerial crossings and special stamps were issued in connection with several of these. The first to be issued in 1919 marked the unsuccessful flight made by Hawker.

DOUGLAS ARMSTRONG.

Editor of "Stamp Collecting."

Letters to the Editor

INDUSTRY IN WALES

Sir,—While most of the reviews of the Industrial Survey of South Wales do a service in calling attention to the need and opportunity for new industries there, some of them do little, if I may say so, to encourage such development. May I therefore point out that the survey devotes considerable attention to the suitability of the labour on the grounds of age and adaptability, and it produces evidence to refute the common notion that the working classes of South Wales tend to be disruptive and aggressive.

While admitting that it would be necessary to introduce key men for certain industries, the survey states:—

Experience suggests that the labour obtained in South Wales to work with these key men is very adaptable to offset the fact that miners are unaccustomed to the regular routine and disciplinary methods obtained in factories. It must be remembered that work underground in the mines accustoms men to hard conditions of labour, and forces them to take responsibilities and to act promptly in emergencies. There is a great variety of tasks involved.

The manager of a large chemical factory told the investigators that his firm had taken on 100 miners in Wales. They had adapted themselves well to semi-skilled process work, and negotiations over wages and conditions had proved smoother than in the firm's English establishments.

In the mining industry, the survey states, defects in the machinery of the negotiations have been more responsible than unreasonableness on the part of workers for the frequency of disputes on union matters, and outside coal-mining there has been no major industrial dispute in South Wales since 1926.

With regard to the type of labour involved, the survey emphasises the fact that there is a large surplus of boy labour. In the Pontypridd area, for instance, to which manufacturers on the Treforest Trading Estate will principally look for their labour, between 350 and 400 boys and approximately the same number of girls will reach school-leaving age each year for the next three years. In the Rhondda and Pontypridd together there are over 5,700 boys over eleven attending school, while the present colliery employment for boys of all ages is only 3,000. Here is a grand opportunity for the manufacturer to secure the services of keen youngsters living at home,

E. N. BENNETT.

House of Commons.

" HOSPITALITY "

(From Prince Alexandre Galitzine)

Sir,—I have read Mr. Thow Munro's letter in which he suggests that the opportunity for entertaining overseas buyers attending the British Industries Fair is missed.

Speaking as one who brought over to the recent Fair a large party of French buyers, I am sure that the B.I.F. authorities only need to have the point

raised to give their minds at once to it. Nobody doubts the generosity and warm-heartedness of the British people.

Foreign buyers would, I am sure, be delighted and grateful for any programme of entertainment drawn up by the Department of Overseas Trade, or by the special committees which work in collaboration with the Department.

When the buyer's busy and often exacting day at the Fair is over, he is ready for some relaxation. But unless a friendly hand is extended he is uncertain where and how that entertainment may be found.

A little thought on the part of the Fair authorities would, I am sure, help to fill the hours from 7 p.m. onwards and, incidentally, it would give your overseas buyers many pleasant memories and help to form acquaintanceships which would make the B.I.F. for many of its visitors something more than a trade counter, valuable as it is in that respect.

A. GALITZINE.

400, Oxford-street, W.1.

FLOODS AND DROUGHT

Sir,—There must be a good many of your readers who, like you, cannot understand why this country should so often be afflicted by two opposite evils, floods in one season and widespread drought in another.

Surely we have the engineering skill available to turn part at least of the overflowing waters in the flood season into irrigation channels for preservation in reservoirs to be utilised by drought-affected areas a few months later?

Draining operations on low-lying land not very distant from the sea may have the disadvantage of bringing in certain quantities of salt deposit and so destroying the fertility of the soil. But has anyone ever thought of scientifically designed irrigation works for getting rid of and preserving all this waste water that is almost equally destructive to soil fertility?

F. N. THOMPSON.

Ely.

ROAD IN WARTIME

Sir,—Now that steps are being taken to bring up to date our national defences, may I point out one important aspect of this problem which, so far as I know, has not received due consideration? I refer to the speedy reparation of our roads under war conditions. That they would be extensively damaged must enter into the plan of possibilities, and that they must in such a case be swiftly repaired is of the first importance. At present the best road materials often have to be transported hundreds of miles from the quarry to their destination.

An obvious and necessary safety measure would be for local authorities and other bodies responsible for the upkeep of roads to form and maintain an adequate reserve supply of road materials. Without such a measure being taken our communications would be in jeopardy under war conditions.

BINDON BLOOD, General (retired),
Chief Royal Engineer.

59, Cadogan-square, S.W.1.

Your Investments

COMMODITIES OR SECURITIES?

RECENT spectacular rises in commodities have been much more due to genuine demand than to speculative activities, but the fact remains that speculators have, in the majority of cases, made handsome profits from the rise. In Great Britain there is comparatively little speculation in commodities by the public, though the ordinary investor is by no means averse to a little flutter in some speculative Stock Exchange security. This position is in strong contrast to that in America where there is as much or even more interest in commodities than in stocks and shares.

In this country the average person is quite unaware even of how to buy or sell wheat, cotton, rubber or metals and he certainly has little or no knowledge of likely movements in these markets. On the whole, this is fortunate, for there is little justification for wholesale gambling in materials the price of which affects the community as a whole.

But there is a happy medium in this, as in all things, for the investor can take a view on some particular share which may benefit from a commodity rise and thus take advantage of a price rise without detriment to the consumer of any commodity. At the moment commodity shares still look the brightest section of the market and Rubbers and Tins, which have figured almost weekly in these notes for a long while past, still appear to offer the most scope.

A TIN SHARE

Some attention is being given to the 2s. shares of South Bukeru Areas, Ltd., which stand at around 4s. The company paid 10 per cent. for 1935 and an interim dividend of 5½ per cent. for 1936. On yield basis alone, therefore, the shares look attractive. But the average price realised for 1935 was under £140 per ton whereas with Tin at recent levels the company would be receiving over £200 per ton for its production which is at a very much higher scale on the raised quotas. The company's property is in Nigeria and it is the West African mines which have proved most popular of late, conditions there being rather more satisfactory than in the East. Tin is now over £300 per ton and all efforts of the International Committee to prevent the spurt in price have proved unavailing owing to the shortage of the metal for immediate delivery. The production quota is at 110 per cent. of standard tonnages and it is difficult to imagine a Tin mine which is not

making a handsome profit at the moment. For those who like the more established shares, Pahang Consolidated at 31s., Renong Tin Dredging at 56s. 3d. and Tronoh at 36s. 6d. are all attractive while Malayan at 47s. 6d. ex the dividend also give a good yield.

RUBBER OVER 1s. A LB.

Rubber is rapidly approaching the highest level of 1929, the price now being 1s. 0¾d. per lb., with consumption still running ahead of available supplies. In the case of Rubber also, the International Regulation Committee has been unable to adjust the position created by the sudden revival of American demand for Rubber which had been withheld in the hope of lower prices. The weakness of all commodity production control schemes is that they are unable to cope with sudden changes in consumption tendencies and a shortage of the commodity for immediate delivery will result in violent fluctuations in the price. There are many who believe that it will not be long before we have Rubber at 1s. 6d. per lb. and there is much to support such a suggestion.

In the meantime the shares of the producing companies are still under-valued in some cases, probably in all cases if a very long view is taken. Chersonese at 4s., East Asiatic at 3s. 9d. and Merlimau Pegoh at 6s. are all promising in the Malayan section: of the Sumatra companies, United Serdang at 5s. 10½d. have attractions while Telogoredjo at 38s. 6d. are interesting among the £1 shares. Rubber shares should be bought when the market appears uninteresting and sold when the shares are at the peak of their popularity. On any reaction from present prices, they are definitely worth purchasing.

BALDWIN'S GOOD RESULTS

The volume of speculative funds which has been withdrawn from the Iron and Steel share market of late becomes obvious when one notes the decline to little over 11s. in the 4s. stock units of Baldwins Ltd. The company has produced an excellent report with a rise in profits from £512,246 to £630,440, the dividend being increased from 7½ to 10 per cent. On this payment the income return is certainly not large, but the Iron and Steel market exists for "prospects" rather than yield and Baldwins' prospects are surely better than those of any other company if a long view is taken, for the company has disposed of all of its prior indebtedness and will benefit this year from the disappearance of the interest charges thereon. Baldwins Ltd. holds a 43 per cent. interest in Guest Keen Baldwins whose steel plant was reorganised a year ago. That company more than doubled its net profit, but put more than half of the money back into the business, paying a dividend of only 2½ per cent. When Iron and Steel shares depend

NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE

INSURANCE Co., Ltd.

Total Assets £53,202,250

Total Income exceeds £10,300,690

LONDON: 61, Threadneedle Street, E.C.2

EDINBURGH: 64, Princes Street

on investment rather than speculative influences for their support, one feels that Baldwins will be at or very near the head of the list.

GILT-EDGED YIELDS

Gilt-edged stocks seem to have settled down at their new levels with a slightly more reasonable yield to the investor in such stocks as the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. War Loan, which at $102\frac{1}{2}$ gives £3 9s. per cent. or about 1s. less if redemption is allowed for. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Funding Loan is an attractive stock for anyone in the Trustee class who wants to be sure of capital security over the next twenty years or so. It gives only £2 16s. 6d. per cent. flat, but allowing for the appreciation in capital to the redemption of the loan the stock at 88 returns £3 4s. per cent. For those who do not wish to be bothered with the redemption factor 3 per cent. Local loans at $88\frac{1}{2}$ give almost as good a return as War Loan. If, however, the investor in fixed interest stocks is seeking to increase his income with reasonable security, he can do little better than in Home Railway prior charge issues which look undervalued at present. L.M.S. 4 per cent. preference at $81\frac{1}{2}$ give £4 18s. 6d. per cent. and in view of the cover for this stock's interest it must be reckoned in every way reasonably secure.

COMPANY RESULTS

CONWAY STEWART AND CO. (fountain pen manufacturers).—Final dividend of 10 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, payable on April 7, making 13 per cent. for 1936. For the period from April 8, 1935, to December 31, 1935, a total dividend of 8 per cent. was paid, which was equivalent to a rate of approximately 10-2-3 per cent. per annum.

HOWARD AND WYNDHAM (theatre proprietors).—Dividend of 6 per cent. on the Ordinary shares for the year ended February 28 (the same as that paid for 1935-36).

MARCONI INTERNATIONAL MARINE COMMUNICATION COMPANY.—At the meeting to be held on April 16 the directors will recommend a final dividend of 5 per cent., making $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for 1936 (unchanged).

RIVER PLATE TRUST, LOAN AND AGENCY.—Final dividends on account of 1936 of 8 per cent. (against 7 per cent.) on the "A" shares, making 13 per cent. (against 12 per cent.) for the year, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (against 2 per cent.) on the "B" shares, making $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (against 3 per cent.).

SCHWEPPES, LIMITED.—Dividend of $8\frac{7}{16}$ per cent. (the same) on the Ordinary stock and 8 per cent. (the same) on the Deferred stock for the year ended December 31 last. The sum of £40,000 is again placed to reserve fund, and £59,706 (against £56,017) is carried forward.

WOODEND (KELANI VALLEY, CEYLON) RUBBER AND TEA.—Interim dividend of 2 per cent. No interim distribution was made in 1936, but $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was declared for the whole of the year.

COMPANY MEETING

LONDON & THAMES HAVEN OIL WHARVES

THE thirty-ninth ordinary general meeting of the London and Thames Haven Oil Wharves, Limited, was held on Monday last at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

Mr. Thomas C. J. Burgess (chairman and joint managing director) presided, and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the divisible profit for the year, shown at £223,177, was just over £3,000 more than the previous year. That was largely absorbed by the increased income tax on the two dividends each of 5 per cent. paid free of tax, the amount left to carry forward being only about £700 more than a year ago. In regard to the Compagnie Industrielle Maritime, it had this year been unable to prepare the annual accounts in time to be submitted at this meeting but such figures as were available showed that the total tonnage handled by the company was an increase of more than 5 per cent. over 1935. Of the total tonnage of importations into the port of Havre of all goods for the year 1936, amounting to 4,609,478 tons, Compagnie Industrielle Maritime's share was 2,660,762 tons, or 57.11 per cent. of the total.

As regarded the petroleum trade in France, total importations for 1936 for the whole of the country amounted to 7,811,300 tons, of which Compagnie Industrielle Maritime's docks and tankage accounted for 2,538,988 tons, or 34.7 per cent. of the total. Those were satisfactory figures, and to sum up the position of their French investments, whatever course it appeared possible for the franc to take in international finance, it need not cause them any real anxiety, but was at the worst a comparatively temporary inconvenience.

As to the position of their own Thames Haven company, it appeared that they were closing one stage in the company's history, and beginning a new one.

Having referred to the Irish venture of the company, the resolution was seconded and carried unanimously.

VAT 69

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SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWTON COLLEGE, NEWTON ABBOT, DEVON.—Scholarship Examination in July. A limited number of Bursaries awarded on recommendation of Preparatory Schoolmaster for entry May or September.—Apply Headmaster.

POCKLINGTON SCHOOL, YORK.—Six Entrance Scholarships of £40 are offered in June. The School fees are £78 15s. per annum. Junior Hostel for boys under 13. Apply Headmaster, P. C. SANDS, M.A., late Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge.

SHERBORNE SCHOOL.—ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS. About TWELVE SCHOLARSHIPS and EXHIBITIONS of a value of from £100 to £30 per annum to be OFFERED as a result of the Examination to be held at Sherborne School on June 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1937, including special Exhibitions for the sons of Clergy and sons of Barristers. For full particulars apply to the Headmaster, Sherborne School, Sherborne, Dorset.

ST. COLUMBA'S COLLEGE.—ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATIONS, 1937. The Entrance Scholarship Examinations will be held on 15th, 16th, and 17th June, 1937. The Scholarships are one each of £50, £30, £25, and £15 per annum, tenable for four years. The major Scholarship may not be awarded if candidates do not show sufficient merit. The candidates should be under fourteen years of age on 1st June, 1937, but the Warden will not necessarily adhere rigidly to this limit; and may, should he think fit, consider for award a boy who may be slightly over age, but whose papers show exceptional merit. Candidates may, in certain circumstances, be required to attend a viva voce examination at St. Columba's College. The papers may be taken at the candidate's present School. For further particulars and previous papers apply to the Warden, St. Columba's College, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin.

WELLINGTON SCHOOL, SOMERSET. Entrance Scholarships annually in June. Bursaries offered. See Public School Year Book. Apply Bursar.

ST. LEONARD'S SCHOOL, ST. ANDREWS, FIFE.—THREE ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS are offered (£80, £70, £60), tenable for four years, for girls under 15 on September 30th, 1937. Examination will be held May 19th, 20th and 21st.—For particulars apply to the Head Mistress before May 1st.

HOTELS

BAMBURGH, NORTHUMBERLAND.—Victoria Hotel. Rec., 3; Pens., 6 gns. Tennis, golf, shooting, fishing.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—Clevedon Guest House, Magdalen Road. Tel. 2086. Nicely situated, with garden, near sea and shops. Good cooking. Assured quiet and comfort. From 3 guineas. Special Winter terms.

BRIGHTON (HOVE)—NEW IMPERIAL HOTEL. First Avenue. Overlooking sea and lawns. Comfortable residential hotel. LIFT. Central Heating, etc. Vita Sun Lounge. From 4 guineas. Special residential terms.

BUDE, N. Cornwall.—The Balconies Private Hotel. Downs view.—Pens., 4 gns. each per week, full board. Golf, boating, fishing, bathing, tennis.

CALLENDER, Perthshire.—Trossachs Hotel, Trossachs. Bed., 60/-; Pens., from 5 gns. Lun., 3/6; Din., 6/-; Golf, fishing, tennis.

DUNDEE.—The Royal British Hotel is the best. H. & C. in all bedrooms. Restaurant, managed by Prop. Phone: 5059.

ELY, Cambs.—The Lamb Hotel. Bed., 20; Rec., 5. Pens., 5 gns. W.E., £2 15/-; Lun., 3/6; Din., 5/-; Boating.

FOLKESTONE.—The ORANGE HOUSE Private Hotel, 8, Castle Hill Avenue; 8 mins. to Sea and Leas Cliff Hall. Excellent table. "Not large but everything of the best"—34 gns. Winter, 2 gns.—Prop., Miss Sykes of the Olio Cookery Book.

HASTINGS.—Albany Hotel. Best position on the front. 120 rooms. Telephone: 761, 762.

LONDON.—Shaftesbury Hotel, Gt. St. Andrew Street, W.C.2; 3 mins. Leicester Sq. Tube. 250 bedrooms, H. & C. Water. Room, bath, breakfast, 7/6; double, 13/6.

ARLINGTON HOUSE Hotel, 1-3, Lexington Gardens, Cromwell Road, W.8. Rec 4; Bed., 35. Pens., from 21 to 5 gns.

BONNINGTON HOTEL, Southampton Row, W.C.1. near British Museum. 250 Rooms. Room, Bath and Table d'Hôte Breakfast, from 8/6.

CORA HOTEL, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1. Near Euston and King's Cross Stations. Accom. 230 Guests; Room, Bath and Table d'Hôte breakfast, from 8/6.

PAIGNTON, DEVON.—Radcliffe Hotel, Marine Drive. Bed., 70; Rec., 3; Pens., from 4 gns., from 5 to 7 gns. during season. W.E., 15/- to 18/- per day. Golf, tennis.

PERTH, Scotland.—Station Hotel. Bed., 100; Rec., 4; Pens., from 4 gns.; W.E., from 24/-; Lun., 3/6; Tea, 1/6; Din., 6/-; Garden.

RYDE, I.O.W.—Royal Squadron Hotel. Bed., 20; Rec., 2. Pens., from 34 gns. 1 minute from Pier. Golf, tennis, bowls and bathing. Cocktail bar. Fully licensed.

SALISBURY, Wilt.—Cathedral Hotel. Up-to-date. H. & C. and radiators in bedrooms. Electric lift. Phone: 399.

SIDMOUTH.—Belmont Hotel, Sea Front. Bed., 55; Rec., 3. Pens., 64 to 8 gns. W.E., inclusive 3 days. Bathing, tennis, golf.

STAMPS

RARE Stamps. For best prices send to Harmer Rooke's Strand Auctions, 2, Arundel Street. Sales Weekly.

PERSONAL

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BREAKFAST TRAY JAMS, JELLIES & MARMALADES, Home-Made, beautifully packed, in many luscious and unusual varieties; including BLACK CHERRY, WHORTLEBURY, PEACH, etc. 12 large Breakfast Tray Pots, 6/-, carr. paid; 6 for 3/6, specialities included. Hilda Kimberley, Gunnislake, Cornwall.

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WHORTLEBURY, BLACK CHERRY and MORELLO CHERRY (Stoneless) JAMS: Pineapple, Blackcurrant, Damson, Peach and many other delicious Home-Made Jams, Jellies and Marmalades; beautifully packed. SIX 1-lb. pots, 7/-; 12 for 13/-; 24 for 23/6, all carriage paid. Hilda Kimberley, Gunnislake, Cornwall.

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